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Poulaphuca lies on the left hand of the great road leading from Blessington to Ballymore-Eustace, and is about half a mile to the south of Rusborough, the magnificent seat of the Earl of Miltown. This house, esteemed one of the most superb in the kingdom, was erected after a design of the celebrated Mr. Cassells.* The front of the house and offices form an extensive facade of hewn stone—the colonade ornamented with pilasters of the Corinthian and Ionic orders, between which statues of white marble are introduced. The whole range extends near seven hundred feet—all the apartments are spacious and elegantly furnished, and are enriched with a variety of splendid and valuable paintings, worthy of a deliberate inspection.

Mr. Brewer, in reference to this waterfall, says, "that this cataract is unquestionably the most picturesque and pleasing of any with which we are acquainted in the county of Wicklow. The single burst of the fall at Powerscourt produces astonishment in an unusual degree, and many adjacent circumstances are truly attractive. But Poulaphuca does not depend on a first impression for its influence over the feelings: its charms give greater exercise to the imagination, and afford a variety of pictures, independent of the general display." R. A.

"THE IRISH FARMER'S AND GARDENER'S MAGAZINE."

There can be no question that Ireland is really in an improving condition. A few years since, by no effort that could be made, was it found possible to support a single periodical of any description (with the exception of the mere ephemera of the day) beyond a second or third publication. At present we have no less than five or six periodicals, of various size and character, all bidding fair for a lengthened existence; and all calculated to be useful in their various departments. Among them we consider there is none which so well deserves the attention of the gentlemen and farmers of Ireland as "The Irish Farmer's and Gardener's Magazine." In no country is such a publication more wanting. Of many particulars relating to husbandry and the production of crops most fitted to the various soils to be met with throughout our island, the people of the country are sadly ignorant. We have in our own little work, from time to time, taken occasion to notice some of these; and we now call the attention of the gentlemen of the country to the publication alluded to, in the hope that some of them may be induced to place it in the hands of their tenantry. It will promote a spirit of inquiry into the best practices and systems to be adopted, and prevent many errors into which ignorance now leads even some of our most extensive farmers. On the importance of landlords endeavouring by every possible means to assist and encourage those who are residing on their estates or properties, we have more than once before expressed our opinion. We are glad to find the subject taken up in a spirited way by an intelligent contributor to the magazine.

"We may just observe, that an insurmountable barrier to the improvement of the lower classes of farmers, is their universal want of means. Nor is encouragement extended, as it should be, to those unfortunate occupiers of the soil. With a very few exceptions, this is the prevailing and sickening complaint. Would our landlords attend to the real improvement of their tenantry, by affording them the means of improving their farms, and endeavour to enforce improved methods of husbandry—for it will take force to accomplish the object in view—their own rent-roll would soon feel the beneficial effects of such a practice; and the altered condition of the now miserable and half-fed population, would surely be matter of gratification to every lover of his country.

"Another fruitful source of misery is the system of short leases, and of raising the rent in proportion to any improvements which the tenant may make during the term of his occupation. A strong, healthy, young man, with a small capital, may farm probably nine or ten acres of land to tolerably good purpose, for a number of years.

* Mr. Brewer says it was designed by Bindon, the friend of Swift.

He may build a comfortable dwelling-house, and also some commodious offices. He may plant on any waste corner, and intersect his little farm with hedges of a useful and beautifying description; and just when every improvement is beginning to shew off to most advantage, his lease will drop. He is then thrown on the mercy of his landlord; and it is not at all reckoned a bad trait in a landlord's character, to charge only the value of the land as it lies: very well, he allows the tenant to remain, and get his farm as it was. It is not usual, however, to expect that he should get it at a sixpence below what it would let at to another; and there is usually a person sent to value it, before the rent is charged. The farmer, of course, is discouraged from making further improvements, is dissatisfied with his landlord, and ultimately loses that spirit of enterprise which should animate every farmer who wishes to be successful in his business.

"But whilst the destroyer is thus silently at work on the estates of some of our infatuated proprietors, it is with relieved and refreshed feelings that we turn to the estates of a few who have the comfort and welfare of their tenantry really at heart. We could point out some whose redeeming traits in this respect have given them a habitation and a name in the hearts of those who have little but the indulgence of their landlords to cheer them in their path of toil. There are some parts of the county of Down, in particular, to which my observations may be more particularly applied: and it may be just observed that there is no difficulty in pointing out the boundaries of the estates of such proprietors.* The writer of this article has a thousand times recognised the boundaries of the estates of different proprietors, from this circumstance alone. On the estate of the nobleman or gentleman who makes the comfort of his tenantry a matter of regard, how different is the appearance from that of the heartless absentee, who makes the exaction of the utmost farthing that can be extracted from a broken down and exhausted peasantry, the sole and exclusive object of any communication he may have with them. On the former we may observe an air of rural neatness and comfort, whilst with the latter may be said to dwell carelessness and sloth, with all the melancholy characteristics of neglect and want."

No doubt many errors remain to be corrected—the ruinous exportation of our cattle should be restrained, and rack-rents, and short leases discontinued. Irish landlords will, it is to be hoped, be awakened to their real interest, and such obnoxious and destructive arrangements will be suppressed—in fact, it depends upon the landed proprietors to make their native country happy, powerful, and productive, and we are certain that they will not suffer a fallacious, though immediate profit, to interfere with that radical amelioration, which they can promote by merely consulting their own interest.

We shall occasionally give short extracts on useful and interesting subjects, but would recommend the work itself to every agriculturist, who would wish to make the most of his land and labour.

"ON THE FAILURE OF THE POTATOCROP."

"In consequence of the general failure of potatoes this year, I give a few hints concerning them, which, I hope, may be acceptable. The failure is attributed to various reasons, but the true one is this, the generality of potatoes having been dug not only last but this year, before the stalks were withered, which was, of course, before the produce was ripe, must account sufficiently for the frequent misses we see and hear of; as a quantity of any vegetable substance put into a heap as potatoes generally are, produces a certain fermentation which destroys the vegetation for the following year. Potatoes may be dug when ripe, even before the stalks decay; but in this case they must be greened in the sun, not in heaps, but in layers; this is only done for an earlier crop, as potatoes treated in this manner, if kept in a warm place, vegetate almost immediately. Potatoes planted early will produce more than

* We may just mention that the landholders referred to above are the Marquess Londonderry, Lord Downshire, Nicholas Price, Esq., of Saintfield House, and one or two others, who have always manifested a praiseworthy anxiety for the welfare and comfort of their tenantry.

a late crop, provided the season is not wet—the difference then is very trifling: for instance, I planted a single potato, cut, on the 11th of June, that weighed one pound, and dug it on the 4th of November, the produce of which was eight stone three pounds, or one hundred and fifteen pounds. I think that a potato planted in June, in a wet season, would produce as much as one planted in March in a dry season. I trust the potato farmers who read this will try my example, and never dig their potatoes, for a general crop, until they are quite dry and withered, which if they do I will insure them success. P. A. G.

"THE POTATO FORK."

"Observing that it is the intention to give a representation of new or improved implements, &c., in the 'Farmer's and Gardener's Magazine,' I take the liberty of forwarding for that purpose the accompanying sketch of the potato-fork:—



"The flattened portions of each prong is about five inches in length, by one in breadth, thinner at each edge than in the middle, and with spaces of an inch between each prong. They are made of scrap or Swedish iron, (occasionally I make them entirely of steel, in which case they are very light and handy, and wear much longer than when made of iron.) They are made with a prong to go into a handle of about four feet in length, and are found much more convenient for digging potatoes, and also for pointing borders in a garden, than any spade. J. M.

Farm, Garden, Forest Implement, and Machine
Warehouse, 27, Frederick-st., North, Dublin.

"MUSHROOM."

"By Mr. RYAN, Gardener to SAMUEL WHITE, Esq.

"The following method, which differs in many respects from any other which I have seen published. I find to answer admirably for the growth of that very desirable plant the mushroom:—Towards the middle of October, I empty the melon pits of the old dung, tan, or tree-leaves, reserving any that appears fresh, which I mix with fresh stable dung, and return to the pits, first placing a layer of entirely fresh dung at the bottom. I tread firmly as I proceed. When the pit is quite filled I put on the sashes, tilting them to permit the escape of the steam. In a fortnight or three weeks the dung will have subsided, and neat be sufficiently abated. I then place a layer of a few inches thick of horse droppings, from a stable where the horses are fed on hay and oats only, and which droppings must be well dried previously to being used: this layer is to be tramped, and the spawn in lumps about the size of a goose-egg, are to be placed one lump in each area of six inches, and covered with about three inches of fresh loam from a pasture, and beaten down well with the back of the spade. Dry hay is to be placed upon the surface of the bed, and air admitted in fine weather. The layer of droppings soon becomes a continuous mass of spawn; and the quantity of mushrooms produced throughout the winter and spring is truly astonishing. Water will be required occasionally, particularly as the days begin to get warm in spring. Towards the beginning of May, when the pits are required for other purposes, abundant spawn may be preserved for future operations. This is, I find infinitely superior to spawning the beds at the time of ridging not the melons, or at any subsequent period to their growth; the water required for the melons being too much for the mushrooms.

'NOTICE OF A SUBMARINE FOREST ON THE WEST COAST OF IRELAND.'

"This very singular phenomenon occurs on the eastern shore of the island of Aranmore, on the coast of the county of Donegal. It was pointed out to us in 1827 by the boatmen who conveyed us from Rutland to Aranmore. The stumps of the trees are of various lengths, from a few inches to six or eight feet above the bog stratum on

which they originally grew. This stratum is now below the surface of the sea; and at high water the whole remains of the forest are from six to twenty feet beneath the surface of the water. When the tide is out, a considerable number of the stumps are dry, and appear to protrude from sand, but this sand is merely a covering which has been superimposed on the bog. The stumps may be observed by a keen eye at an immense depth beneath the water as we approach the main land.

"Submersed forests have been discovered on the eastern coast of England, and in Scotland. Their existence has been variously accounted for, by supposing that the bed of the waters of the ocean maintain a higher level now than they did formerly; or, that owing to some convulsion, the land on which the trees grew subsided. The most satisfactory reason which has been given appears to be, that the bog and the trees which it supported moved, as we know bogs frequently do, from a higher to a lower level—this, from the appearance of the land, appears to have been the case, at least with the submarine forest on the coast of Donegal." E. M.

NOTICES OF THE POTATO.

The potato is a native of America, and was well known to the Indians before the conquest of Mexico or Peru; where it has been found in a wild state above ten thousand feet above the level of the sea. In Hindostan it is still little known. Bishop Heber informs us in his journal, that they soon become so small, that the natives cease to cultivate them.

Sir Walter Raleigh is said to have first introduced the potato into Ireland, about 1586; and two years after it was brought into Flanders, but from whence is not now known. Gerard, an old English botanist, gave it the name of *Solanum Tuberosum*, which name was afterwards adopted by Limacus. In 1683, Sutherland notices it in his *Hortus Medicus Edinburgensis*; from which it is probable that it was cultivated in the gardens in Scotland, though not in the open fields until 1728. About 1600, it was cultivated in England in the gardens of the nobility and gentry, as a rare exotic; and towards the end of 1634, it was first planted in Lancashire in the fields.

In Ireland it is probable they were long in coming into general cultivation by the farmer. In a manuscript in the writer's possession, written between the years 1670, and 1679, which treats largely of the prices of every kind of agricultural produce, potatoes are only once mentioned, and that in 1676, when they were sold at the high rate of 1s. 8d. per bushel. Very old people inform us that few potatoes were formerly used after harvest, except a small quantity preserved as a treat for their *Halloween* supper, which were eaten with butter. It, however, does appear that they were coming into general circulation before their time. In a Dublin Almanac, now before us, for 1706, in the Gardener's Calendar department for November, is marked—"take up your potatoes for winter," a proof that it was deemed a proper season for their preservation.

The following are a few of the many instances of the extraordinary produce of the potato. In 1787, the produce of one potato set in a garden in Lurgan, amounted to seven hundred and seventy-nine, and they weighed upwards of two hundred pounds. In 1810, six men, near Antrim, raised three hundred and sixty bushels of potatoes, out of 3228 square yards of ground; and in 1832, a man at Ballaghty, county of Derry, in the space of eight hours, with two gatherers, raised one hundred and twenty bushels. S. M. S.

ORNITHOLOGY.

SIR—A friend has directed me to copy his note to you specifying, that there is a bird to be found here, which he believes to be a stranger to the natives of Ireland, although well known to seamen of every nation, and supposed by them to hatch its young under their wings; but they may rest assured they are greatly in error, as he has found them on the rocky, desolate islands on the western coast of the county of Galway, near Slimehead, hatching their eggs; they are about the size of a swallow, their tails